

# **Injectable Silicone for Body Contouring and Enhancement**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. What is injectable silicone?**

Injectable silicone, or silicone oil, is a liquid polymer of siloxane that can be used in products such as lubricants and caulking materials. It is more popularly known for soft tissue augmentation, although controversial.

### **2. Is injectable silicone approved by the FDA?**

The FDA is alerting healthcare providers and the public that injectable silicone is NOT approved to enhance or augment the body.

### **3. What use(s) of injectable silicone does the FDA approve?**

The only FDA-approved injectable silicone is silicone oil used for specific intraocular ophthalmic (inside the eye) use.

### **4. Can use of injectable silicone lead to serious side effects?**

Such use can lead to ongoing pain, infections, and serious injuries such as scarring, permanent disfigurement, embolism (blockage of a blood vessel), stroke, and death.

### **5. Is injectable silicone permanent?**

Yes, injectable silicone is permanent. Silicone spreads and migrates easily inside the body which makes surgical attempts to remove the silicone oil nearly impossible.

### **6. What happens if the injectable silicone migrates inside my body?**

When injected into areas with many blood vessels, such as the buttocks, silicone can travel to other parts of the body and block blood vessels in the lungs, heart or brain.

### **7. What is the FDA's recommendation about injectable silicone?**

The FDA recommends that you do not inject silicone to achieve breast, muscle, or buttocks enhancement

***For Healthcare Providers:***

**1. What should I do, as a healthcare provider, if a patient informs me that they are considering body contouring?**

Discuss the benefits and risks of *FDA-approved* options for body contouring.

**2. How should I prepare my healthcare facility staff to deal with complications of injectable silicone?**

Educate staff on how to quickly identify and assist patients who report signs and symptoms of complications from injectable silicone. Staff must understand how to instruct patients to receive appropriate medical care if a serious adverse reaction occurs such as difficulty breathing or signs of a stroke.

***For Consumers:***

**1. Where can I find information on approved uses for dermal fillers?**

The only approved uses for dermal fillers are available on the FDA Dermal Fillers website.

**2. Who should I speak to if I'm considering having filler injections?**

Talk with your licensed healthcare provider about appropriate treatment injection sites, risks associated with the procedure, and products being injected. Ask for the FDA-approved product brochure and patient labeling.

**3. What should I do if I start experiencing serious symptoms after having a procedure done?**

Seek medical attention immediately if you are experiencing life threatening symptoms such as difficulty breathing, chest pain, or signs of a stroke. Seek medical care from a licensed board-certified plastic surgeon if you are experiencing pain, hardening of the skin, lumps, or infections.

**3. What should I do if I think I've received injectable silicone from an unlicensed provider?**

You are encouraged to use the FDA website to report suspected criminal activity.

***All information taken from the FDA***